

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.40pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Ms A S O'Reilly (from Minute 7.05), I G C Pearson, H Thresher.

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, R Simister (district councillor).

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

7.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a written report by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, covering, inter alia:

- the availability of thermometers for older people, to help them keep their homes warm;
- a good report for the Oxfordshire Shared Life Service.

Mr Bulmer apologised for the delay in securing a reply to the Council's request for a meeting with relevant county councillors about the possible highway verge cutting delegation agreement.

Mr Bulmer urged that potholes in the highway were reported via the Fix My Street link on the County Council website. He also reported that his Council's favoured option for local governance, going forward, a unitary county council, would provide the most cost effective solution.

7.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Ms A S O'Reilly of Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End spoke of her interest in serving as a parish councillor.

7.04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 6.10/16) In light of the statement of Ms A S O'Reilly reported in Minute 7.03 above, it was

RESOLVED: That Ms A S O'Reilly be co-opted, in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mrs J E O'Sullivan.

(Ms O'Reilly thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office)

7.05 PLAY AREAS

(cf 6.04/16) The Chairman advised that she had submitted applications for grants, towards the project to refurbish the equipment at the play area in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, to the [Oxfordshire] High Sheriff's Community Integration Award and the Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

7.06 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 6.05/16) In a letter, the Highways Area Steward (South) of the County Council acknowledged the Council's letter to the County Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment, seeking a meeting to discuss the proposed delegation agreement under which the Council could take on the County Council's responsibilities for highway verge cutting. The Council had deduced that the implementation of the agreement would lead to a higher cost to the public purse. The Area Steward apologised for the delay in replying, and was sorry to hear that the likely cost of the work in the Parish exceeded the proposed grant. Against that background, he offered to meet representatives of the Council again, to discuss the matter further.

7.07 KIDMORE END VILLAGE - TRAFFIC SPEEDS

(cf 6.07(i)/16) The Clerk reported that he had received an acknowledgement from the County Council of the request to undertake speed surveys in connection with the proposed reduction of the speed limit in Kidmore End village.

7.08 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 6.09/16) The District Council's Head of Planning forwarded, with an e-mail, a letter from British Telecommunications plc enclosing the list of public payphones which the Company intended to remove, which list included the telephone kiosk at Cane End. The Head of Planning requested any objections to the removal, or expressions of interest in adopting the kiosks, by 20 January 2017.

The Council considered the future uses of the telephone kiosks at Chalkhouse Green and Kidmore End.

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the future of the pay phone at Cane End be deferred to the next meeting.

2 That the Council's former telephone kiosks be used as follows:

Chalkhouse Green – for the provision of information about local history
Kidmore End – for the provision of general local information.

7.09 BROADBAND

(cf 6.13(i)/16) It was reported that contractors acting on behalf of BT Openreach had notified the planning authority about the provision of 2 further fibre optic cabinets in the Parish - in Horsepond Road, Cane End and on the corner of Elm Road, Tokers Green.

7.10 GALLOWSTREE COMMON ALLOTMENTS

(cf 6.14/16) PCSO W Pomroy of the Thames Valley Police reported, by e-mail, that he had spoken to both the parties in the dispute regarding the use of one of the allotments at Gallowstree Common.

In presenting the account of Vines Farm for cutting the highway boundary hedges at both allotments' sites, Mr R S Young asked whether the Council wished the Farm to continue to cut those hedges.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), Vines Farm be asked to continue to cut the highway boundary hedges of the allotments at Cane End and Gallowstree Common.

7.11 GO ACTIVE GOLD

(cf 6.19/16) The Chairman and the Clerk reported that they had met the District Council's GO Active Gold Activator on 5 December 2016, in the company of an interested resident, Ms D Paige, when

they had agreed arrangements for a GO Active Gold taster session in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common, on the morning of 28 February 2017.

7.12 HOUSE NAMING

In an e-mail, the District Council's Data Monitoring Manager & Street Naming and Numbering Officer advised that the new residential dwelling at Hillfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been named Dormers.

7.13 FISH MINIBUS SERVICE

(cf 6.26(a)/16) The Chairman reported that the minibus service, provided by the FISH Volunteer Centre, between Kidmore End and Reading, was to be re-arranged in January 2017. The service would operate on Fridays, twice a month, leaving Kidmore End at 1030 and returning from Reading at 1430.

7.14 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 30 November 2016.

RESOLVED: 1 That the precept for the financial year 2017/18 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than 2% higher than the figure for the present year.

2 That allotment rents at Gallowstree Common be increased to £25 per plot with effect from the earliest possible date, unless there is a significant reduction in water usage at that site.

3 That the following grants be made in the financial year 2016/17:

Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice - £300
South & Vale Carers' Centre - £200
Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale - £100
Club SC - £200.

7.15 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £62,335.15.

(ii) Accounts for payment

RESOLVED: That the following accounts, listed in the schedule under Financial Regulation 5.2, be approved for payment:

Vines Farm – Trimming hedges at allotments	£136.80
Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice – Grant	£300.00
South & Vale Carers' Centre – Grant	£200.00
Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale – Grant	£100.00
Club SC – Grant	£200.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£375.29
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£250.26
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£14.60
Ms S M Biggs – Gifts for persons who repaired the well wheel	£30.96

7.16 ESTIMATES, 2017/18

The Council considered a report (16/17 - 3) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2017/18. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2017/18 be adopted, as presented.

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

cost of 20mph speed limits in Kidmore End village	£4,750
works to willow tree at Kidmore End pond	£500
unspecified projects	£4,095

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £36,060 in 2016/17.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2017/18, for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

7.17 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally:

reglazing of existing porch bay, involving removal of white painted softwood doors and frames, and replacement with oak framing and dark grey polyester coated doors and framing, set back behind, at Pond House, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
amendment to planning permission P16/S2412/HH to change the pitch of the roof of summerhouse at Archmore, Mill Lane, Kidmore End

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following applications, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

residential development of 30 dwellings together with associated landscaping and public open space, access to site from Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
alterations and extensions to include an enlarged roof with 2 gables to rear and dormer to front following removal of front porch and rear conservatory and minor changes to fenestration detail at Goodacres, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
extension and conversion of existing outbuilding to form new 3-bedroom dwelling at Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amended plan);
construction of a double garage at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
proposed conversion of barn to single dwelling with new vehicular access and amenity space at the Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the comments set out in the Appendix hereto be made on the application for residential development of up to 245 dwellings (including up to 40% affordable housing) structural planning and landscaping, informal public open spaces and children's play areas, vehicular access from Peppard Road and Kiln Road and associated ancillary works, all matters to be reserved with exception of main vehicular access, on land off Peppard Road, Emmer Green [Parish of Eye & Dunsden] for Gladman

Developments Ltd.

(iv) Proposed development near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green

(cf 4.16(v)/16) Aside from consideration of the planning application (see Minute 7.17(iii) above), the Chairman reported on a meeting she had attended about the proposed development near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green, on 5 December 2016, with representatives of Binfield Heath, Eye & Dunsden, Shiplake and Sonning Common Parish Councils and the Caversham & District, Caversham Park and Emmer Green Residents' Associations. A press release had been issued by the Chairman of Eye & Dunsden Parish Council, on behalf of those present at the meeting, indicating significant concerns about the proposed development.

(v) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 4.16(iv)/16) The Council noted an extract from "Hansard" reporting a statement made by the Minister for Housing & Planning on 12 December 2016, about neighbourhood development plans taking precedence in the determination of planning applications, or deciding planning appeals, in areas where the plans were in force and current. The Minister expected this to be included in future planning policy guidance.

7.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in November 2016, particularly the paragraph about crowdfunding for road safety.

7.19 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

The Acting Director for the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind asked the Council to consider making a grant to the organisation. The Association offered information, support and services to the 12,000 people in the County living with visual impairment.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request be deferred.

7.20 PUBLIC SERVICE OMBUDSMAN

The Council noted an e-mail from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils about a Parliamentary bill, published by the Cabinet Office, for a public service ombudsman, to replace the existing Parliamentary, Health and Local Government Ombudsmen. The proposed ombudsman would consider, inter alia, complaints about parish and town councils, which were not covered under the present arrangements.

7.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

7.22 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman advised

- a about the collaborative working, with like-minded parish councils, initiated in connection with proposed application to revise the boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- b that the winding wheel for Kidmore End well had been repaired and restored to the well-head structure.

7.23 SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Chairman wished all Members a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

APPENDIX

PLANNING APPLICATION P16/S3630/O – development of land for c245 houses between Peppard Road and Kiln Road, Emmer Green [Parish of Eye & Dunsden]

This application should be refused, because

- the development is believed to be contrary to the present South Oxfordshire Local Plan, which does not contemplate development in the area in question;
- there are no significant employment opportunities in southern South Oxfordshire warranting such housing development;
- this will represent an incursion of suburbia into ancient open countryside, in an area adjacent to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- the development will take out of production a number of fields actively used for raising grain and other food crops;
- the demands of c250 additional households will swamp the already stretched public sector infrastructure, eg access to education and health services, in southern South Oxfordshire, as the application makes no provision for such services on site;
- the roads serving the proposed development site are inadequate for the likely number of private car journeys arising from the homes;
- the proposed access onto the B481 is on to a length of that road notorious for traffic accidents.